

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169714

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S/S - MR. EALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169714

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, VE, CU, CS, CO

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

FOR AMBASSADORS VAKY AND MCCLINTOCK AND CHARGE LANE FROM
KUBISCH

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR PERCEPTIVE AND VIGOROUS EFFORTS.
WHILE THERE ARE LOOSE ENDS, IT APPEARS WE HAVE REACHED A
ROUGH UNDERSTANDING TO DELAY ANY FORMAL OAS ACTIVITY ON
CUBA UNTIL LATE IN THE YEAR. SOME UNCERTAINTIES ATTEND
THE QUESTION OF WHAT LOPEZ WILL FINALLY DO, BUT THE FACT
THAT NO ONE APPARENTLY CONTEMPLATES UNILATERAL ACTIONS
REMOVES THE PRINCIPAL RAISON D'ETRE BEHIND MOVES FOR
IMMEDIATE OAS ACTION. AND LOPEZ'S PUBLIC STATEMENT TRACKS
WITH WHAT HE TOLD AMBASSADOR VAKY.

2. AT THE EARLIEST SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY WE WOULD LIKE YOU
TO CONVEY THE GRATITUDE OF THE USG TO EACH OF THE PRIN-
CIPALS FOR THEIR FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 169714

DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM SO FRANKLY WITH US.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK: OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE REMAINS THAT OF FORESTALLING ANY KIND OF OAS MEETING AT THIS TIME, EVEN FORMATION OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, AND YOUR RESPONSE TO SCHACHT IN THIS VEIN WAS MOST APT (CARACAS 7399). THAT,

TOGETHER WITH FACIO'S TIMELY INTERVENTION, OUGHT TO PERSUADE SCHACHT TO DESIST FROM HIS PERSONAL INCLINATION TO MOVE PROMPTLY TO SET UP THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY. IF HE STILL PERSISTS, YOU MIGHT ADDITIONALLY REMIND HIM THAT WE UNDERSTOOD FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ THERE WAS NO HURRY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE BUENOS AIRES MFM DOES NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL MARCH OF NEXT YEAR.

4. RE UPI STORY, WE HOPE GOV WILL TAKE YOUR SUGGESTION THAT SILENCE IS, IN THE MAIN, THE BEST COURSE. WE CAN'T DENY AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD'S TRIP AND YOU WILL HAVE SEEN OUR LOW-KEY IF ASKED ONLY PRESS GUIDANCE (STATE 16871) WHICH AVOIDS WHO MAILLIARD SAW. IN YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY CONVEY GUIDANCE TO SCHACHT, POINTING OUT INQUIRIES HERE HAVE BEEN VERY LIMITED, AND THAT WE HOPE GUIDANCE WILL HELP DAMPEN SPECULATION. WE EXPECT PAT HOLT REPORT WILL DOMINATE CUBA NEWS. BUT WE WOULD LIKE HIS PERMISSION TO ACKNOWLEDGE, IF PRESSED, THE SIMPLE FACT OF A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT PEREZ, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WAS WITNESSED BY VENEZUELAN REPORTERS AT THE PALACE. FACIO HAS AGREED TO OUR ACKNOWLEDGING FACT OF MEETING WITH MAILLIARD. WE WILL OF COURSE SUPPORT VENEZUELAN DENIALS OF U.S. PRESSURE.

5. FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK AND CHARGE LANE: WE WISH AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LONG STANDING COMMITMENTS, TO RELAY OUR GENERAL VIEWS TO OAS COUNTRIES NOT PRIVY TO THESE DISCUSSIONS. WE FEEL HONOR BOUND TO DO SO AND THINK IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN DAMPENING PRESS SPECULATION. (WE SUSPECT UPI STORY WAS GLEANED FROM LATIN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE ACCOUNT WAS SUFFICIENTLY GARBLED IN IMPORTANT RESPECTS TO SUGGEST QUOTE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES UNQUOTE WERE AT SOME REMOVE FROM THE FACTS.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 169714

6. WE PLAN TO HAVE OUR AMBASSADORS RELAY OUR VIEWS, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH STILL OBSERVE OAS SANCTIONS. WE WOULD TAKE A VERY GENERAL LINE AND NOT MENTION THE SPECIFICS OF CONVERSATIONS. WE WOULD SAY THAT OUR WELL KNOWN POSITION ON CUBA HAS NOT CHANGED, THAT WE DO OPPOSE PRECIPITIOUS OAS ACTION, THAT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE AN OAS MEETING LATE THIS YEAR, AND THAT WE WILL CONSULT IN ADVANCE AS PROPOSALS BECOME CLEARER.

BEFORE WE DO SO, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS APPROACH WILL NOT CAUSE EITHER SCHACHT OR FACIO ANY DIFFICULTIES. RUMORS ABOUT LOPEZ' CONVERSATION ARE SO OBVIOUSLY CONCOCTED OF WHOLE CLOTH THAT WE SUSPECT HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEMS, BUT AMBASSADOR VAKY, IN HIS DISCRETION, MAY CHECK IT OUT WITH HIM. WE HOPE TO SEND OUT CIRCULAR TO ARA POSTS MONDAY OR TUESDAY. KISSINGER

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